

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting one in 68 children, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and

**WHEREAS,** autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

**WHEREAS,** symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

**WHEREAS,** the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and

**WHEREAS,** ensuring that persons living with autism have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential; and

**WHEREAS,** Vermont is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**, and April 2, 2016 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**, to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 22nd of March, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

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Peter Shumlin  
Governor